

Upgrade of Passengers to Higher Class

6304. SHRI V. PRADEEP DEV: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the authority in Air India which is authorised to upgrade passengers to the higher class than the class for which they have paid the fare;

(b) the criteria followed for such upgradation and whether any record of such upgradation is maintained;

(c) the number of cases of upgradation authorised during the last three years;

(d) whether it is a fact that the list of these upgradations with the names has not been provided to the Board during the last three years;

(e) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(f) the total quantum/rupee value of these upgraded tickets due to the actual difference in fare paid and the actual fare of the class by which these passengers travelled?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM): (a) and (b) Regional Heads, on line Managers of Stations, Commercial Managers of Delhi and Mumbai Airports, Deputy Commercial Manager, Tourism, Air India are authorised to upgrade passengers to higher class. Upgradation are generally authorised for commercial reasons.

Records of upgradation are maintained by the concerned stations/regions.

(c) The information regarding total number of cases upgraded during the last three years is not readily available.

(d) and (e) The list of upgradations is not required to be submitted to the Board of Air India.

(f) No loss of revenue is suffered as upgradation is done on seat availabilities basis and no revenue passengers are displaced.

Expansion/Modernisation Exchanges in Kerala

6305. SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA:

SHRI P.C. THOMAS:

PROF. P.J. KURIEN:

SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN:

SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS

SHRI S. AJAY KUMAR:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to set up telephone exchanges in Kerala;

(b) if so, the details thereof, location-wise;

(c) whether some exchanges in the State are also proposed to be expanded/modernised; and

(d) if so, the details thereof, location-wise alongwith the investments proposed to be made therefor during 1997-98?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) The names of places where Telephone Exchange are to be set up and name of places where Exchanges are to be expanded/modernised during 1997-98 in Kerala are not yet decided. The investment proposed to be made is also not yet decided.

Vacancies Reserved for SC Community

6306. DR. BALIRAM: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry maintains 40 point Roster for filling up of reserved vacancies for (i) ad-hoc appointment in Junior Administrative Grade; (ii) regular appointment in Senior Time Scale and non-functional selection Grade; and (iii) confirmation in Junior Time Scale during the period from 12.9.68 to 31.3.88 in different branches of Department of Telecommunications; and

(b) if not, the steps the Government propose to take to implement the Reservation Policy in Group 'A'?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA): (a) and (b) The requisite information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Reservation Facilities at Delhi

6307. SHRI RAMASHRAYA PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in Delhi, each reservation counter has facility to provide to and fro ticket;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government are considering to change the rule "one man one requisition form" to "one man two requisition forms" at every reservation counter;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) and (b) The facility of making outward as well as return journey reservations is available at Delhi for all trains originating

from the stations linked to the main reservation system at Delhi. Due to certain limitations in the telecommunication links, it has been possible at present to provide only limited connectivity at a few terminals linked with the Madras, Calcutta, Mumbai and Secunderabad Systems at Delhi.

(c) to (e) At present, one person is entitled to submit only one requisition except in a case where the same person is making reservation for going to and coming from the same destination, lying within the Northern Railway PRS System.

Subsidy on Railways

6308. SHRI K. PARASURAMAN: Will the minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government have been providing subsidy for Railways in the country;

(b) the total amount of subsidy provided by the Government for Railways for providing transportation facilities in the four metropolitan cities for the last three years;

(c) whether the Government have any proposal to reduce or withdraw the subsidy; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The subsidy from General Revenues towards Dividend relief and other concessions for railways, during the last three years, has been as follows:

1994-95	Rs. 419.73 Crores
1995-96	Rs. 388.07 Crores
1996-97 (RE)	Rs. 465.71 Crores

However, there is no system of keeping of accounts of subsidy separately for any of the cities including metropolitan cities.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Filling up of GCS Posts

6309. SHRI BRIJ BHUSHAN TIWARI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the process of filling up of GCS posts by promotion of Section Officers in his Ministry is violative of Article 16 of Constitution violating the principle of equality of opportunity;

(b) the graduate Section Officers who have never been on deputation are available with 10-16 years service in the grade but the favourite ones jumping from one

deputation to another are selected to stage a comeback;

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to ensure that the condition of 'Cooling-off period' is not relaxed and those officers who are likely to stay for three years are selected instead of those who are waiting for cadre promotion earlier than that; and

(d) the manner in which those whose juniors as Section Officers got GCS promotion are proposed to be compensated?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA): (a) and (b) GCS posts in the Ministry of Communications are not filled by promotion of Section Officers; they are filled in accordance with the Recruitment Rules by notifying the vacancies among all categories of officers eligible to apply for the posts and basing the selection on merit.

(c) The 'cooling-off period' prescribed under the Rules is generally adhered to in making selection to GCS posts. As indicated above, GCS posts are not filled up from one group of officers only.

(d) As the GCS post cannot be filled up exclusively from the cadre of Section Officers, the question of granting compensation to the senior Section Officers, who have not been selected against GCS post, does not arise.

Growth of Air Travel

6310. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether air travel continue to grow @4.9% over the next 20 years;

(b) if so, whether Asia-Pacific will outpace all other areas in the world in traffic growth with annual and projected travel of 6.6%;

(c) whether a recent report submitted by the Sub-Committee to study the options for Air India have favoured the twin jet air bus 330 in preference to boeing 777 or Modonnel Doubles II or even Airbus 340;

(d) if so, whether the Committee also reported that Air India would not be able to fill more than 50% of the 30 additional seats being offered by Boeing 777 version;

(e) whether India's projection is that air traffic is likely to be 5.6% in the next 20 years; and

(f) if so, what are the steps taken to improve the air traffic growth during 1997-98 and whether all facilities have been made available to meet the rush of air traffic growth?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM): (a) and (b) According to the forecast prepared by the International Civil Aviation Organisation, the total